

## Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCA-01 SR-02 ORM-03 IO-14 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 VO-03 PPT-02

/129 W

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R 241359Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4823

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 15986

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: ASEC SREF CGEN UR IS

SUBJ: DENIAL OF ACCESS TO EMBASSY TO JEWISH ACTIVIST

1. CONSOFF WAS INFORMED BY MOSCOW UPI CORRESPONDENT CHRISTOPHER OGDEN DECEMBER 22 THAT AT DECEMBER 21 "PRESS CONFERENCE" GIVEN BY FOUR SOVIET JEWS REFUSED EXIT VISAS TO ISRAEL, ONE REPORTED THAT HE HAD ALSO BEEN DENIED ACCESS TO US EMBASSY BY SOVIET MILITIAMEN ABOUT TEN DAYS EARLIER WHEN HE HAD SOUGHT PURSUE POSSIBLE CLAIM TO US CITIZENSHIP.

2. JEWISH ACTIVIST IN QUESTION WAS CYBERNETICS EXPERT MIKHAIL AGURSKY, WHO RELATED INCIDENT AS FOLLOWS TO OGDEN AND CHRISTOPHER WREN OF NYTIMES: AGURSKY STATED THAT HIS FATHER WAS NATURALIZED AMCIT AND THAT HE THEREFORE WISHED TO KNOW WHETHER HE HIMSELF HAD ANY CLAIM TO US CITIZENSHIP OR IMMIGRANT VISA ON THIS BASIS. HE STATED TO CORRESPONDENTS THAT HE TELEPHONED EMBASSY CONSULAR SECTION (FYI: REACHING ONE OF LOCAL EMPLOYEES END FYI), IDENTIFIED HIMSELF, STATED THAT HE WISHED PURSUE THIS QUESTION AND WAS TOLD TO COME "ANYTIME." ACCORDING AGURSKY, WHEN HE ASKED WHETHER HE WOULD BE ADMITTED ON HIS OWN WITHOUT CONSULAR INVITATION, HE WAS TOLD THAT ACCESS WOULD NOT BE IMPEDED. AGURSKY  
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STATED THAT WHEN HE ARRIVED OUTSIDE EMBASSY, HOWEVER, HE

WAS STOPPED BY SOVIET MILITIAMEN, DETAINED AND QUESTIONED TWO HOURS, THEN RELEASED WITH WARNING NOT TO MAKE FURTHER ATTEMPT VISIT EMBASSY.

3. IN DISCUSSING THIS INCIDENT WITH CONSOFF, OGDEN STATED HE DID NOT PLAN PUBLISH IT DUE TO DISTORTED VIEW WHICH IT WOULD GIVE CONCERNING EMBASSY'S POLICY ON ACCESS TO EMBASSY. OGDEN DID NOT KNOW WHETHER WREN INTENDED PUBLICIZE INCIDENT, AS LATTER DEPARTED FOR LEAVE IN US SHORTLY AFTER ACTIVISTS' PRESS CONFERENCE. OGDEN ALSO STATED THAT HE WOULD INFORM AGURSKY, WITH WHOM HE IS PERSONALLY ACQUAINTED, THAT EMBASSY WILL PROVIDE HIM WITH CONSULAR LETTER OF INVITATION IF HE DESIRES PURSUE CITIZENSHIP/VISA QUESTION. (COMMENT: CONSOFFS WILL ALSO MEET AGURSKY IN FRONT OF EMBASSY AND CONDUCT HIM INTO CONSULAR SECTION PAST MILITIAMAN.)

4. FYI: ACCORDING OGDEN, OTHER THREE ACTIVISTS HOLDING CONFERENCE WERE SINOLOGIST VITALIY RUBIN, DAVID AZBEL AND KFNUL GOROKHOV, ALL OF WHOM, LIKE AGURSKY, STATED THAT THEY HAD BEEN DENIED EXIT PERMISSION TO ISRAEL. (RUBIN HAS BEEN OBJECT OF CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST--MOSCOW 14711 AND PREVIOUS.) PURPOSE OF CONFERENCE WAS TO EXPRESS ACTIVISTS GRATITUDE TO US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR DENIAL OF MFN TREATMENT TO USSR AND TO ISSUE STATEMENT CALLING FOR MORE CLEARLY DEFINED SOVIET EMIGRATION LAWS IN ORDER THAT THOSE REFUSED EXIT PERMISSION MUST BE INFORMED OF REASON AND FRAME OF TIME FOR DENIAL.  
SOMMERLATTE

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**TAGS:** ASEC, SREF, CGEN, UR, IS  
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